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UNITED NATIONS



THIRD CONFERENCE
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA



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THIRD COMMITTEE

STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Prepared by the Rapporteur of the Committee

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 2nd meeting on 7 December 1973, the Conference decided to establish the Third Committee as one of its three main Committees.

2. The officers of the Committee during the third session of the Conference, held in Geneva from 17 March to 10 May, were as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Alexander Yankov - Bulgaria

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mariano Ospina Hernandez - Colombia
Mr. Max I. Kehden - Germany, Federal Republic of

Rapporteur: Mr. Charles Manyang - Sudan

II. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

3. The mandate of the Committee consists of examining the subjects and issues allocated to it by the Conference at its 15th meeting on 21 June 1974.^{1/}

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

4. During the third session of the Conference in Geneva from 17 March to 10 May 1975, the Third Committee worked through formal and informal meetings. It held formal meetings and informal meetings.

5. At its 18th meeting held on 19 March 1975 ^{2/}, the Committee accepted a proposal by the Chairman that the Committee should continue working under the established practice of holding informal discussions alternately on item 12 (preservation of the marine environment) and items 13 (scientific research) and 14 (development and transfer of technology). The Committee would have formal meetings, when necessary, to enable delegations to introduce formal proposals. Those proposals introduced by delegations during the current session and other formal documents presented to the Committee are listed in Annex I of this Statement.

^{1/} Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Vol. III (A/CONF.62/C.3, Rev.1, Annex III, para. 4)

^{2/} A/CONF.62/C.3, SR.10

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6. As at the previous session in Caracas, the informal meetings of the Committee when discussing item 12 were under the Chairmanship of Mr. José Luis Vallarta of Mexico, and when discussing items 13 and 14 were under the Chairmanship of Mr. Cornel Metternich of Germany, Federal Republic of.

IV. WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE AT ITS INFORMAL MEETINGS

7. The work undertaken at informal meetings during the current session is reflected in the following documents.

- (i) for item 12, document A/CONF.62/C.3/L.15/Add.1 which contains informally agreed common texts, and document A/CONF.62/C.3/L.30;
- (ii) for items 13 and 14, document A/CONF.62/C.3/L.31.

V. DOCUMENTATION

8. All the documents referred to in paragraph 6 of Annex III of document A/CONF.62/L.8/Rev.1 ^{3/} were before the current session of the Committee. In addition all documents emanating from the Caracas session and relating to the Third Committee were also before the Committee.

VI. FUTURE WORK

9. The Third Committee made progress at this session of the Conference towards completion of the mandate assigned to it by the Conference. It therefore recommends that the opportunity should be provided for it to continue this work at a further session or sessions with a view to completing the drafting of articles dealing with the preservation of the marine environment, scientific research and the development and transfer of technology.

^{3/} Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Vol. III (A/CONF.62/L.8/Rev.1, Annex III, para.6)

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ANNEX I

List of documents presented to the Committee

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.12/Rev.1 Iraq: draft articles on transfer of technology [presented by Iraq on behalf of the Group of 77 of the Third Committee].

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.13/Rev.2 Iraq: draft articles on scientific research. [The delegate of Iraq as the Chairman of the Group of 77 of the Third Committee while presenting this document, would like to point out that it has been agreed upon by consensus by the Group of 77 of the Third Committee without committing the final position of members of the Group].

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.22 Description of some types of marine technology and possible methods for their transfer: report prepared by the Secretary-General.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.23 and Corr.1 The global environmental monitoring system of United Nations Environment Programme (submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme at the request of the Third Committee)

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.24 Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Netherlands, Poland and United Kingdom: draft articles on the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.25 and Corr.1 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: additional draft articles on prevention of pollution of the marine environment.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.26 Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland Ukrainian SSR and USSR: draft articles on marine scientific research.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.27 Greece: draft article on the prevention of pollution from dumping at sea.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.28 Netherlands: draft amendments to the draft articles on marine scientific research contained in document A/CONF.62/C.3/L.19 [submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on Marine Scientific Research of the Group of Land-locked and other Geographically Disadvantaged States, at the request of the Group].

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Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Nigeria:
Draft articles on marine scientific
research.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.15/Add.1

Results of consideration of proposals and
amendments relating to the preservation of
the marine environment.

A/CONF.62/C.3/L.30

Proposals or amendments informally
introduced as Conference room papers but
not agreed upon by the Informal Sessions on
Item 12 (Preservation of the Marine
Environment) during the Third session of
the Conference.

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Texts on items 13 (scientific research) and
14 (development and transfer of technology).